

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01340 161441Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 IO-14 SCSE-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02
MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /082 W
-----161445Z 093101 /41

O 161410Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0071
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS GABORONE 1340

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, PINS, PFOR, BC, RH
SUBJ: REPORTED HOLDUP OF U.S. TOURISTS IN BOTSWANA BY RHODESIAN
SECURITY FORCES

1. ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, CHARLES
TIBONE, TELEPHONE EMBASSY AFTERNOON JUNE 16 THAT ON THE 13TH
THREE AMERICAN CITIZEN TOURISTS WERE ROBBED IN BOTSWANA ON
BOTZAM ROAD BY BLACK RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCE SOLDIERS. TIBONE
SAID THERE WERE NO INJURIES IN THE INCIDENT AND THOUGHT THAT
THE VICTIMS WERE PROBABLY LOCATED NOW IN VILLAGE OF KASANE NEAR
BORDER WITH ZAMBIA/RHODESIA. HE PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY
OF FURTHER DETAILS TO INCLUDE NAMES AND PRECISE WHEREABOUTS
OF ROBBERY VICTIMS.

2. ONE HOUR AFTER TIBONE'S TELEPHONE CALL, THE FOLLOWING PRESS
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STATEMENT WAS RELEASED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT:

QUOTE: THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED
THAT AT 4:15 P.M. ON MONDAY, 13 JUNE 1977, FIVE ARMED
RHODESIAN SOLDIERS CROSSED INTO BOTSWANA AND FORCIBLY
STOPPED AN AMERICAN MOTORIST ON THE NATA-KAZUNGULA ROAD
57 KILOMETERS FROM KASANE AND 10 KILOMETERS FROM THE

BOTSWANA/RHODESIA BORDER, AND ROBBED HIM AND HIS TWO FEMALE PASSENGERS OF 340 PULA IN CASH AND TRAVELLERS CHEQUES AS WELL AS CAMERAS AND OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS VALUED AT ABOUT 1000 PULA. THE PASSPORTS OF THE VICTIMS WERE ALSO SEIZED BY THE REBEL SOLDIERS.

THE FIVE SOLDIERS WERE DRESSED IN FULL RHODESIAN ARMY UNIFORM AND ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC FIREARMS.

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT REBEL SOLDIERS ENGAGE IN THIS TYPE OF THUGGERY IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO CAUSE PANIC AMONG LOCAL POPULATIONS AND TO SCARE AWAY TOURISTS. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT WHEN THE RHODESIANS ATTACKED A BDF BASE CAMP AT MAPOKA LAST MONTH, THEY ALSO LOOTED A SHOP OWNED BY A LOCAL COUNCILLOR THERE.

THE REBEL FORCES ARE CLEARLY BECOMING MORE DESPARATE BECAUSE OF THEIR INABILITY TO CONTAIN THE WAR INSIDE RHODESIA. END QUOTE.

3. EMBASSY ENDEAVORING TO LOCATE AMERICAN ROBBERY VICTIMS IN KASANE. WILL ADVISE OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.HOOVER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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